

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A pre-treating composition for shoes comprising a polymeric soil release agent in an amount effective to provide soil release benefit, and a spreading agent, wherein the pre-treating composition is adapted to provide improved removal of soil from the shoes in washings subsequent to application of the pre-treating composition to the shoes over removal of soil from the shoes in washing without application of the pre-treating composition to the shoes.
2. (Currently Amended) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 1 wherein the polymeric soil release agent is a polysaccharide having a degree of substitution ranging from about 0.6 to about 1.2.
3. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the polysaccharide is carboxymethylcellulose.
4. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 1,000,000.
5. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 4 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 500,000.
6. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 5 wherein the molecular weight of the polysaccharide is less than about 250,000.

7. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 1 wherein the spreading agent is a nonionic surfactant.

8. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 2 wherein the spreading agent is a nonionic surfactant.

9. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 1 further comprising an antimicrobial agent.

10. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 1 further comprising a drying agent.

11. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 10 wherein the drying agent comprises ethanol.

12. (Original) A pre-treating composition according to Claim 9 wherein said antimicrobial agent is water insoluble, and said water insoluble antimicrobial is made soluble by the addition of the ethanol to an aqueous system.

13-27. (cancelled)

28. (Previously Presented) A pre-treating composition according to claim 1, comprising from about 0.1 to about 95% of the polymeric soil release agent.

29. (Previously Presented) A pre-treating composition according to claim 1, comprising from about 0.1 to about 10% of the polymeric soil release agent.

30. (Previously Presented) A pre-treating composition according to claim 1, comprising from about 0.1 to about 5% of the spreading agent.

31. (Previously Presented) A pre-treating composition according to claim 1, comprising from about 1 to about 50% of the spreading agent.